

Follow-up items from earlier Economic Vitality forums

(Written reports available from GMAP staff)

Project	Who	Status and notes
Improving recruitment and retention of auditors	DOR, ESD, L&I, DOP	<u>On track.</u> Agencies are collaborating to (1) identify effective recruitment and retention strategies, and (2) conduct a limited-scope compensation review for these positions.
Environmental permitting: 'Getting it right the first time'	DOE, ORA, WDFW, Army Corps	<u>On target.</u> Agencies have begun a more systematic approach to document, track and analyze permit applications for completeness and timeliness. A written report includes several action steps to reduce the number of incomplete applications and reduce the total time needed to complete the permitting process.
Performance measures for CTED Trade and Economic Development Division	CTED	<u>On target.</u> CTED has identified measures of inputs, processes and outcomes that reflect the work of the entire division rather than the discrete program units.

Employment

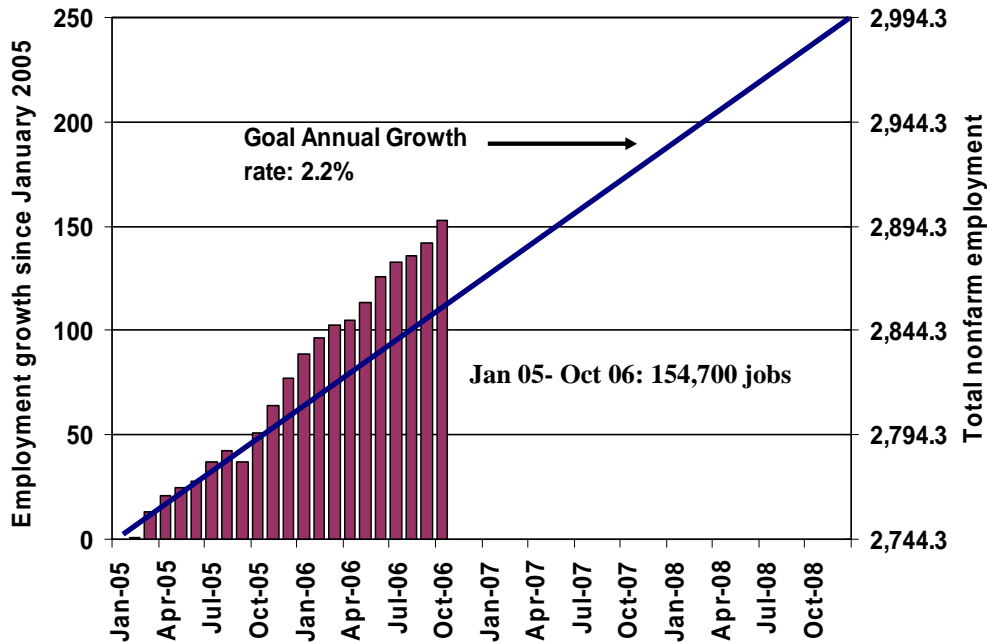
What is the state's current employment picture?



Total Nonagricultural Employment

How many jobs have been created in Washington?

Monthly employment (seasonally adjusted)



Analysis

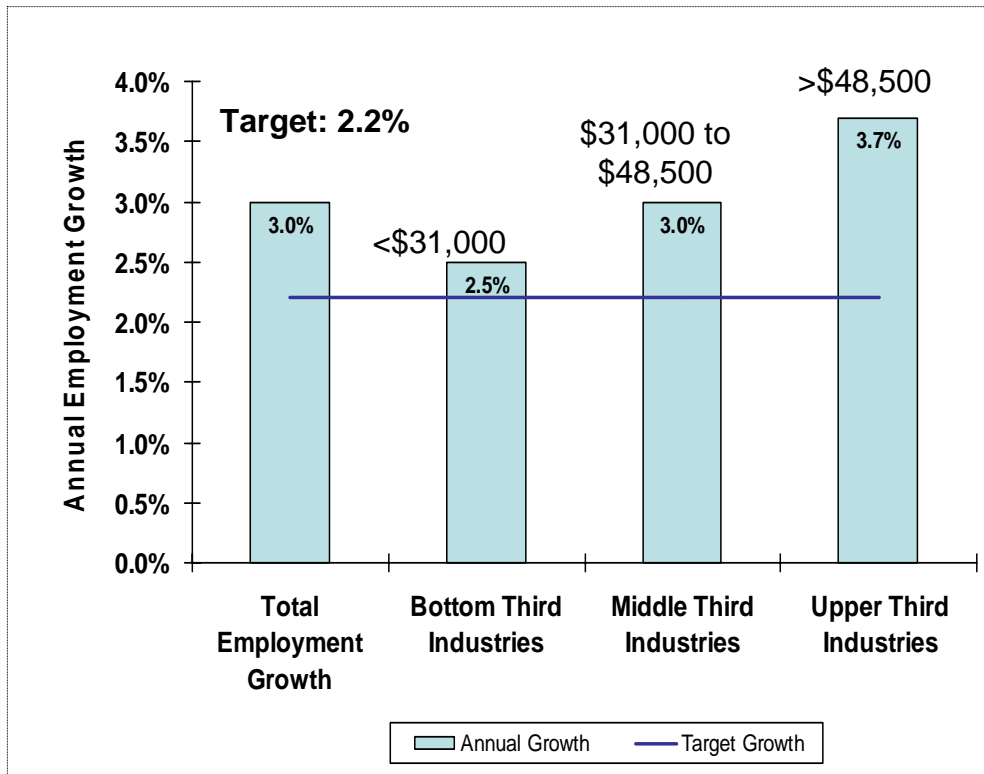
- 154,700 jobs have been created since January 2005.
- Total employment was up 10,700 between September and October.
- Benchmark revisions led to upward revisions for employment over the past 6 months

Data Notes: *Total nonagricultural employment is estimated monthly and benchmarked quarterly. Monthly estimates are more timely than quarterly administrative records, but can have larger errors. They also exclude agriculture.*

Employment Growth by Industry Wage Group

Jan. 2005 – Oct. 2006

Job growth in industries grouped according to average annual wage



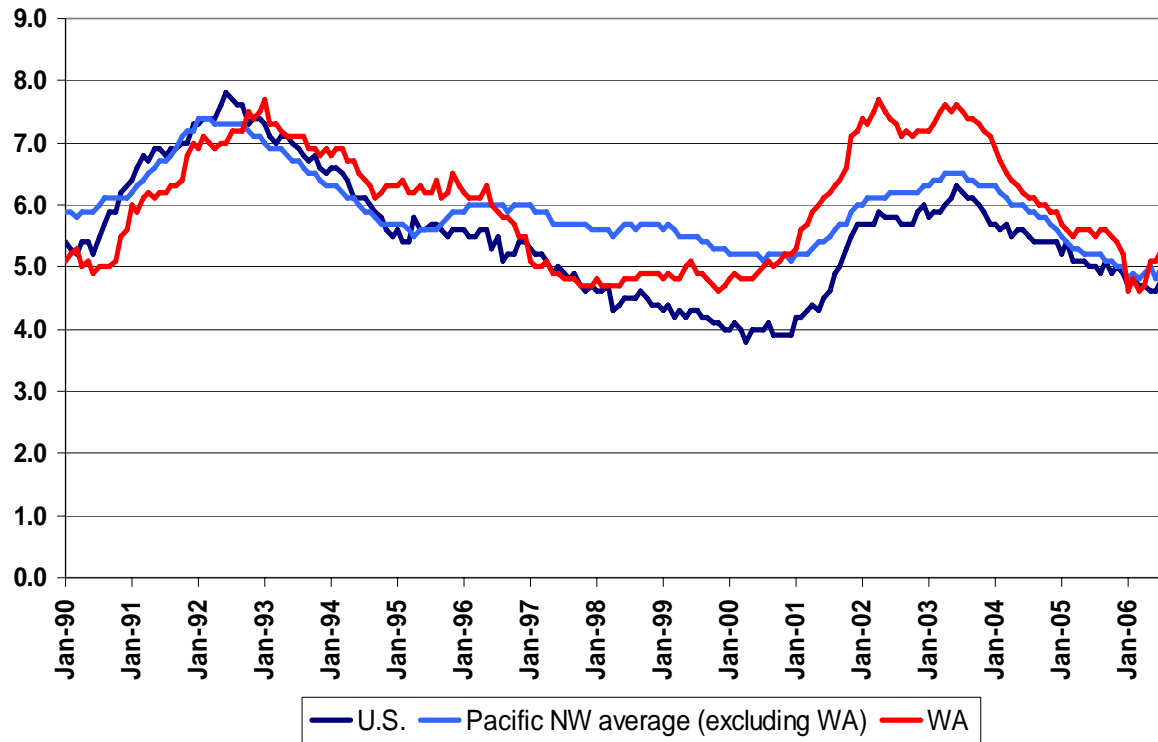
Analysis

- Bottom Third: Biggest gainers were accommodation/food services (+3.2%), retail (+2.7%), and real estate (+2.4%)
- Middle Third: Biggest gainers were construction (+8.5%), administrative services (+5.9%), and education (+5.4%).
- Upper Third: Biggest gainers were information (+5.2%), manufacturing (+4.3%) and professional/technical services (+4.3%).

Footnote: This chart displays job growth in industries that are grouped by the average wage they pay. The percent growth relates to total employment for the industries as a group. In recent years, industries that have higher average wages have been increasing employment at a higher rate than those that don't.

Unemployment Rates for Washington and the Nation

Where does Washington rank?



Analysis

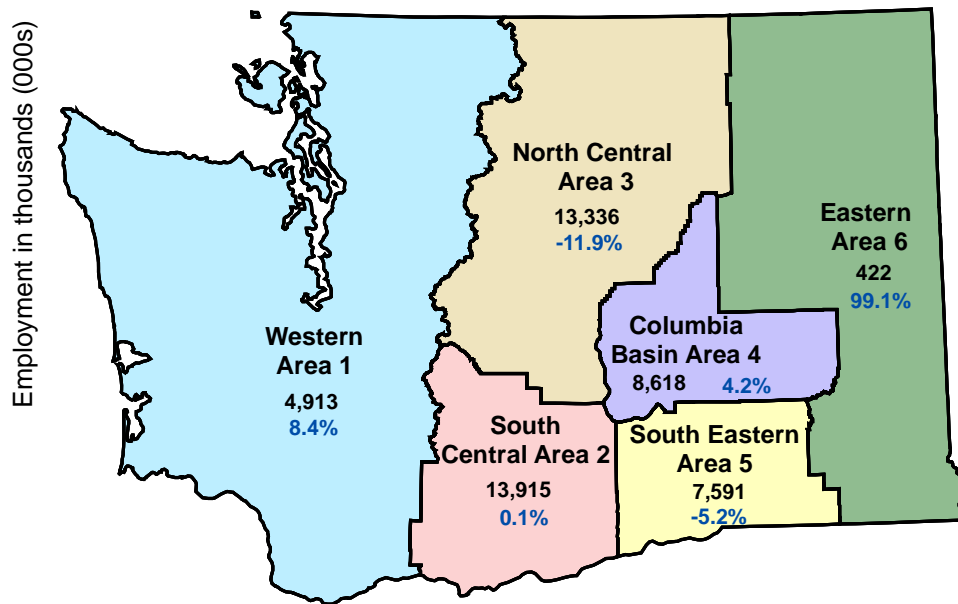
- Washington's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.8 percent in October 2006, higher than the U.S. average (4.4).
- 2006 is shaping up with the lowest average jobless rate since 1999.
- Idaho (3.2) and Montana (3.6) had lower rates; Oregon (5.1) and Alaska (5.9) had higher rates.

Data Notes: *Unemployment rates are published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Pacific Northwest grouping includes Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Alaska. Washington was left out of the calculation for the Pacific Northwest to allow for better regional comparison.*

Seasonal Agricultural Employment and Percent Change

How is the state's agricultural employment faring?

Seasonal Agricultural Employment and Year-over-Year Percent Change (September 2006)



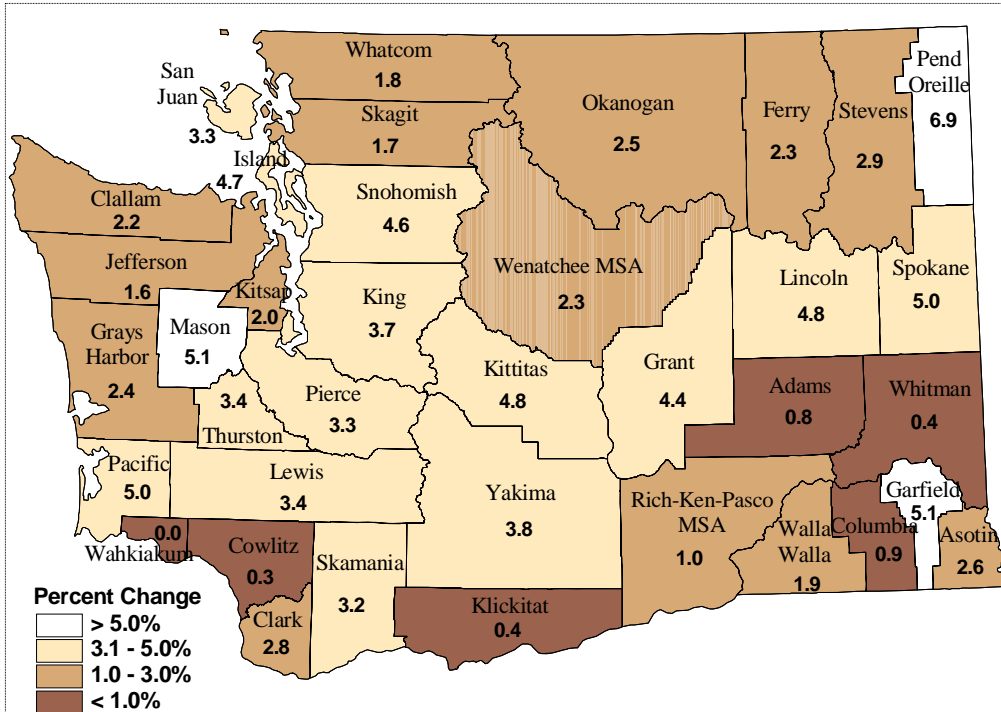
Analysis

- Agriculture employment was down in parts of central Washington due to a smaller apple harvest. The south central area was held up by increases in the pear harvest.
- Western agriculture employment was boosted by increases in potatoes.
- Employment losses in South Eastern due to apples were offset somewhat by large increases in grapes and wheat.

Data Notes: Annual average employment in agriculture includes covered and non-covered agricultural employment and permanent and seasonal employment. Agriculture data are subject to larger errors than nonfarm employment estimates.

Annual Job Growth, Oct. 2005 – Oct. 2006

How much job growth has there been over the year?



Statewide average = 3.6%

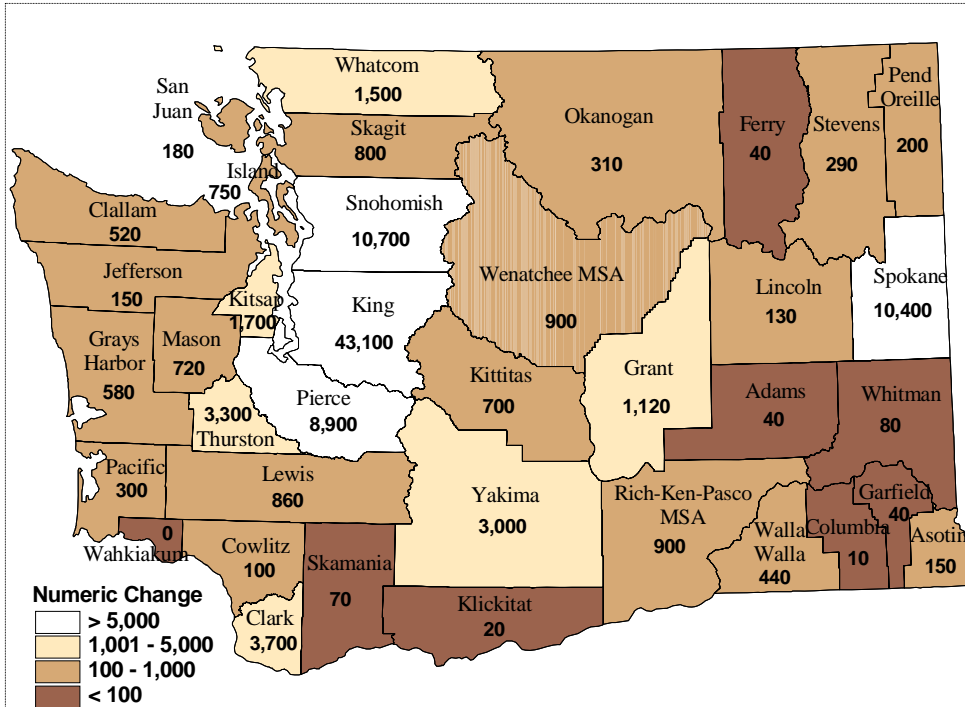
Analysis

- The Puget Sound region continued its strong growth pattern with five counties over 3.0% for the year.
- Pend Oreille and Garfield counties both posted growth rates over 6.0%. However combined total growth for the two areas was 240 jobs.
- Zero counties posted losses over the year.

Data Notes: Annual employment growth by county compares actual county nonfarm employment growth to the statewide average. County data are subject to larger errors than state data. These data exclude agriculture.

Employment Change, Oct. 2005 – Oct. 2006

How many jobs have been created by county over the year?



Statewide total: 102,500

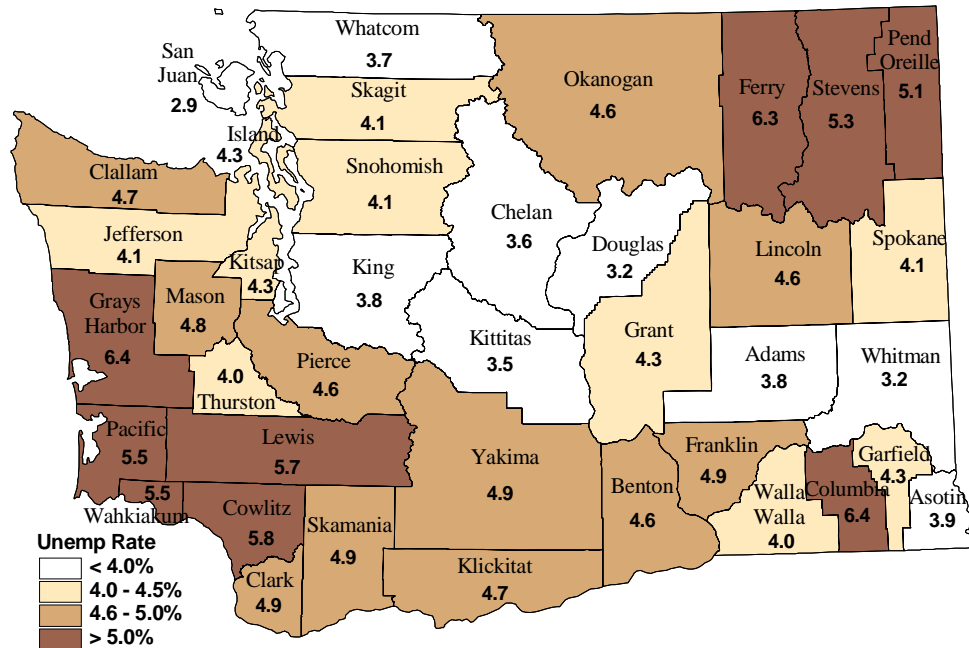
Analysis:

- King, Snohomish, Spokane, Pierce, and Clark counties accounted for 76% of all jobs created over the year.
- Yakima county added 3,000 jobs led by gains in wholesale trade (+800).

Data Notes: Annual employment growth by county compares actual county nonfarm employment growth to the statewide average. County data are subject to larger errors than state data. These data exclude agricultural employment.

Unemployment Rates by County, Oct. 2006

How does the current unemployment picture look?



Statewide Unadjusted Average = 4.2%

Analysis

- Most areas around the state are experiencing the lowest unemployment rates since 2000.
- San Juan (2.9%), Douglas (3.2%), and Whitman (3.2%) counties had the lowest unemployment rates in September 2006.
- Columbia (6.4%), Grays Harbor (6.4%) and Ferry (6.3%) had the highest unemployment rates.

